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[Embellished with, 1. A Portrait, by HOLLOWAY. 2. Another Plate from the elegant DRAWINGS of Mr. HODGES, in INDIA. 3. A third Plate of ANCIENT ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE.]

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PREFACE to Vol. XIII.

THE utility of periodical publications, their general power of entertainment, the knowledge which has been diffused through every part of the known world by means of them, and the improvement in arts, sciences, literature, and civilization, which may be ascribed to them, are so universally known and felt, that it would be a waste of time to attempt to prove what no one will deny, and which requires only the slightest observation to perceive. In spite of the spleenetic sneers of fallacious pride, in spite of the interested cavils of dulness and ignorance, what is known to be beneficial will continue to be approved; what is found to convey knowledge and amusement will still be sought after and applauded. It would be no vain boasting to assert, that in the various walks of science and literature more knowledge has been conveyed to the public by this species of publication, than through any other channel whatever. Much of the improvements of the present times may, without arrogance, be claimed by the influence of Literary Journals, and the facility with which they are disseminated. At one period or other of life, who can say they have not received improvement, amusement, or rational pleasure, by means of these monthly publications?

When the names of the most eminent of the present day pass in review before us, which of them can be pointed out whose owner has not contributed his assistance at some period to a periodical publication? Here the modest and unassuming first try their powers: here the diffident may acquire confidence; the inquisitive information; the doubtful satisfaction; and the benevolent the opportunity of communicating happiness. Of the Eminent who have already passed away (and many of them highly deserving), the memorials of not a few will be preserved in no other repository.

Amidst the multiplicity of publications of this species, it cannot be denied but that some are perverted to improper purposes, and some executed with so little judgment, that no advantage to the public is derived from them. These, however, are too short-lived to deserve particular notice. The contempt which they experience fortunately consigns them to oblivion.

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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF

After six years experience, the EDITORS of THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE would be wanting to themselves were they to doubt whether the manner in which they have conducted their work had been acceptable to the public. A continued increase in their sale, and the frequent orders from abroad, sufficiently convince them that their labours have not been fruitless or in vain. Perseverance in the same line of conduct, they will consider as the best return they can make for the uncommon favour they have experienced. The same attention will be employed for the time to come, and they doubt not with equal success.

The PLATES which have ornamented this Work are such, as the PROPRIETORS have repeatedly received the warmest approbation of from various quarters. The same artists continue to be employed, and many portraits and subjects are at this moment executing to adorn the ensuing volumes. To solicit a comparison with other works of this nature is unnecessary. It may be confidently asserted, that in this particular no Monthly publication can stand in any kind of competition with the present.

For the Biographical department, they have been favoured with such authentic materials as cannot fail to ensure the approbation of the world. Correctness is the principal merit to be looked for in articles of this kind; and in this particular their materials will hereafter considerably assist the Historian and Biographer. The use which is frequently made of them by very respectable publications is sufficient praise. In recording the lives of many eminent persons, the most considerable aid will be derived from the present work.

After so long an acquaintance with the public, the EDITORS presume they may take the liberty of abridging the ceremonial employed on such occasions as the present. They therefore will conclude by observing, that as they do not apprehend being neglected so long as their attention is alive to the performance of their engagements, so they will desire no encouragement when they shall in any degree relax their assiduity in furnishing such an entertainment as will be useful and amusing to all ranks and classes of readers.

THE following HEADS of Modern AUTHORS, ARTISTS, OFFICERS, STATESMEN, and other REMARKABLE MEN of EMINENCE, either LIVING or DEAD; accompanied with Biographical Anecdotes; together with a great Variety of Essays moral and literary, and such as illustrate dark Passages of History; Letters on Erudition and Criticism; Original Letters of celebrated Persons; Accounts of New Inventions, Literary Publications, and Theatrical Performers and Performances; singular Characters, &c. &c. have been given in the Numbers published of this Magazine

FOR THE YEARS 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, AND 1787, and which the Proprietors flatter themselves will be found worthy of a Place in the first Libraries, as a Composition of Taste, a History of the Times, a faithful Register of Occurrences, and a Picture of the Living Manners.

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